

Learning English with Online Digital or AI-based Tools and Apps

A. General Resources

British Council: Practice the 4 skills, grammar, vocabulary, and Business English online using these high-quality resources.

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish-central-word-games-archive.htm>

BBC Learning English: Skills, grammar, vocabulary, business English, general English and IELTS

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/index.shtml>

Dialang: a placement test that tests reading, writing, listening, structures (grammar), and vocabulary separately. It adjusts itself to your level after taking the general placement test and includes feedback at the end to help you know what mistakes you made. It takes a good half hour per test, but it is worth it!

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/596232.html>

B. Reference Works

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary with exercises & new words. It has fewer words than Merriam-Webster but gives more information about how to use each word, including pronunciation and example sentences.

<http://oald8.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>

Linguee: German/English and English/German dictionaries (never use LEO again)

<http://www.linguee.de/>

Merriam-Webster: An online: English/English dictionary, thesaurus (a synonym dictionary), and word of the day.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/>

Oxford Dictionary of Collocations. It is a dictionary that extracts common word combinations from the British National Corpus. The word combinations are used in context with some grammar and register information.

<https://www.freecollocation.com/>

Ozdic Dictionary of Collocations. This is the collocation dictionary also shows B2-users of English common word combinations, but the entries are easier to read and contain less information than the Oxford Dictionary of Collocations.

<http://www.ozdic.com/>

Sketch Engine is a state-of-the-art cloud tool for building, managing and exploring large text collections in several languages. It helps with synonyms as well as provides examples in context.

These examples are more reliable than Linguee, but Sketch Engine doesn't have the translation function that Linguee does.

<https://skell.sketchengine.co.uk/run.cgi/skell>

Visual dictionary: If you don't know what something is called in any language, then the visual dictionary may help. For example, objects in the sciences or plants and animals. It has annoying ads, but you can click them away.

<http://www.visualdictionaryonline.com/index.php>

C. Writing & Grammar

Academic Phrase Bank: Provides users with useful academic phrases organized according to language function, e.g. being cautious, signaling transitions, or criticizing.

<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>

AWE (Academic Writing in English): A great review of academic English with exercises. The web address is listed below but you can access it from your app store.

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/english-usage/apps/awe/>

englisch-hilfen.de: This website not only provides you with explanations and grammar exercises. If you get the answer wrong, it provides an explanation, so that you understand why it's incorrect.

<https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/>

Grammar Girl: Educational podcasts and blogs by Mignon Fogarty. These short one-topic English grammar lessons are geared to native speakers but also helpful to B2+ and higher users of English.

<https://www.quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-girl>

Monash University's Language Learning Online: Improve Your Academic English. Great videos, too.

<https://www.monash.edu/learnhq/resources/improve-your-academic-english>

Online Writing Lab at Purdue University: The most prolific online source about writing, grammar, punctuation and spelling. Explanations, exercises, and answer keys are available:

<https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/index.html>

University of Toronto's Advice on Academic Writing: In addition to offering general advice on academic writing, e.g. topic sentences, plagiarism, thesis statements, the site also offers information on genre-specific writing, e.g. abstracts, admission letters, or literature reviews

<https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/student-pdfs/>

Quillbot's Paraphrasing Tool: available in French, German, and Spanish, too.

<https://quillbot.com/>

D. Audio, Pronunciation, & Video

BBC Sounds: Podcasts, live radio, and music.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/>

Elsa speaks: An AI-powered English language speech app that assists with intonation, word stress and pronunciation. There is a useful free version.

<https://elsaspeak.com/en/>

English with Lucy: A great YouTube channel with many video lessons for learning English. Especially helpful are the videos on pronunciation of British English.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz4tgANd4yy8Oe0iXCdSWfA>

Speeko: An AI-powered English language coach that analyzes, for example, fluency, pace, and use of filler words. It tracks the user's progress over time. The free version is useful.

<https://www.speeko.co/>

YouGlish: Use YouTube to improve your English pronunciation. The search engines finds YouTube videos in which the word is spoken.

<https://youglish.com/>

Open Culture: Free Audio Books

http://www.openculture.com/2006/10/audio_book_podc.html

F. Style

The Punctuation Guide shows the current style of American punctuation.

<https://www.thepunctuationguide.com/index.html>

G. Vocabulary & Word Choice

Vocabulary.com is a free app for practicing and learning new vocabulary. It gives information about the context the word is used and it makes exercises for you. The web address is listed below, but you can access it from your app store.

<https://www.vocabulary.com/>

WordUp is an AI-powered free app for vocabulary learning from A1 to C2 levels of English. It starts with the most useful words and helps you to figure out how many words you know in English (native speakers have 10,000+ words). It includes numerous videos and sentences in

which the words are used in context. Read about it on the web, and then download the app from your appropriate store. After a while, you'll get some advertisements, but they are easily ignored.
<http://www.wordupapp.co/>

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